

VOL. 83, No. 8

15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

JANUARY 16, 2020

## Council Responds to Beltway Plaza Redevelopment Plan

by Matthew Arbach

The Greenbelt City Council and staff shared their opinions about the revised Preliminary Plan of Subdivision (PPS) of the proposed redevelopment of Beltway Plaza (BP) with its representatives at a worksession on January 8. The representatives were Quantum General Counsel Marc "Kap" Kapistan, attorney Michael Tedesco of McNamee Hosea, Alex Villegas of Rodgers Consulting, Inc., and Michael Lenhart of Lenhart Traffic Consulting, Inc. Some current Beltway Plaza tenants were in attendance.

This PPS was part of several new plans submitted during December. The former PPS was submitted on October 7, 2019, following the Conceptual Site Plan (CSP) submitted in 2006. On October 15, 2019, the council

entered into a MOU with GB Mall Limited Partnership based on the CSP.

The current plan proposes 2,500 multi-family units and 700,000 square feet of retail. The choice to remove townhouses was a major change from previous iterations, as well as more retail placed within the residential buildings. The townhomes were omitted due to traffic circulation issues as well as space demands, according to the BP team. Now available for green space are 7 to 17 acres with 1.9 acres set aside in the development for amenities. They have proposed offering 20,000 square feet of interior recreation space to the city.

The meeting began with

See COUNCIL, page 8

## Vigil Held Supporting Refugees During Hearing at Courthouse

by Melissa Sites

With a light snow falling, over 70 people, including more than a dozen Greenbelters, gathered in the courtyard outside the Maryland District, Southern Division, Federal Courthouse on Cherrywood Lane on January 8 to support refugees seeking to settle in the U.S. Vigil attendees carried signs, chanted slogans including "No hate, no fear, refugees are welcome here" and listened to remarks from more than a dozen speakers representing a variety of national and international immigration and refugee aid groups.

Many of the people who stood in freezing temperatures for the hour-long vigil had religious affiliations, including Lutherans, Presbyterians, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Roman Catholics and the Franciscan Action Network, the Rabbinical Assembly, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the Washington Council for Secular Humanist Judaism, the Interfaith Immigration Coalition and Disciples Refugee and Immigration Ministries.

Greenbelter Marjorie Gray attended the vigil after seeing a notice on the Concerned Greenbelt Women's Facebook page. She stated, "I've been privileged



PHOTO BY MO KANTNER

Greenbelters and many others gather at the Federal Courthouse on Cherrywood Lane to protest a restrictive immigration policy.

here in Maryland to know refugees and immigrants from many countries." Gray appreciated the various signs people carried at the vigil, especially one advocating for refugee women and girls. Local writer Robin Hawley Gorsline said of the occasion, "I was grateful to have the opportunity to testify to the reality that those who arrive on our shores bring wisdom, energy, ingenuity, courage, intelligence and determination, all qualities we need more of rather than less."

The courtroom, presided over by U.S. District Judge Peter J. Messitte, filled with refugee advocates and spilled into overflow rooms, as plaintiffs sought a preliminary injunction against the September 2019 Executive Order on Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Refugee Resettlement, which requires documentation of "local consent"

when national resettlement agencies seek to place vetted and approved refugees in homes and communities around the country. Nine resettlement agencies act in accordance with the United States Refugee Act of 1980 to find homes in the U.S. for people who have been granted refugee status due to persecution.

Judge Messitte heard arguments from attorneys representing the U.S. government (the defendant) and plaintiffs including the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Church World Service and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, represented by the International Refugee Assistance Project. The judge, a 1993 Clinton appointee, was critical of the government attorney's arguments and seemed to agree with the plaintiffs who argued that the

See REFUGEES, page 7



PHOTO BY VIJAY PARAMESHWARAN

On January 12, Greenbelt's chalk artist Vijay Parameshwaran wishes the city a happy Pongal. Pongal is the multi-day Tamil harvest festival of South India and is celebrated mid-January when the crops of rice and sugar-cane are harvested. Pongal means "to boil" and the festival includes a traditional dish of sweetened rice boiled with spice and lentils. Parameshwaran's drawings are usually on the sidewalk in front of the apartments on Crescent Road.

### What Goes On

**Monday, January 20**  
City Offices will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.  
**Wednesday, January 22**  
**8 p.m.** Council Worksessions with WMATA on Greenbelt Metro Station, Community Center

## Committee To Focus On 2020 Census Participation in County

by Grace Todd

Prince George's County is collaborating with the U.S. Census Bureau to form a Complete Count Committee in an effort to count its population as accurately as possible on census day April 1.

"It is very important for several reasons," said Jordan Baicum Colbert, the outreach coordinator of the committee.

The census affects a community's political representation, federal funding and economic prospects, since counts determine how many Congressional seats will be allocated to Maryland for the next decade, as well as the funding communities will receive for various federal programs and infrastructure projects. An undercount can greatly cost a community.

"For every person that does not respond within Prince George's County the county will lose approximately \$1,825 per person, per year," said James Cannistra, chief of the Information Management Division of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. "So, over a 10-year period that's \$18,250 in federal funding."

The Census Bureau also lends information to businesses that helps guide their decisions on where to enterprise, according to Baicum Colbert.

Though an accurate count is important, it is not always easy. Greenbelt is considered a hard-to-count area, though it "is not necessarily the hardest within Prince George's County," Baicum

Colbert said.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that in 2010, 6,513 in Greenbelt people were classified as hard to count.

The hard-to-count include young children, homeless people, undocumented immigrants, group housing, non-English speakers, veterans and those with special needs.

Baucum Colbert says the committee, in partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau and facilitators, work at locations with hard-to-count populations "to ensure that those residents are counted."

"We and the Census Bureau and a lot of the participants in the Complete Count Committee

See CENSUS, page 8

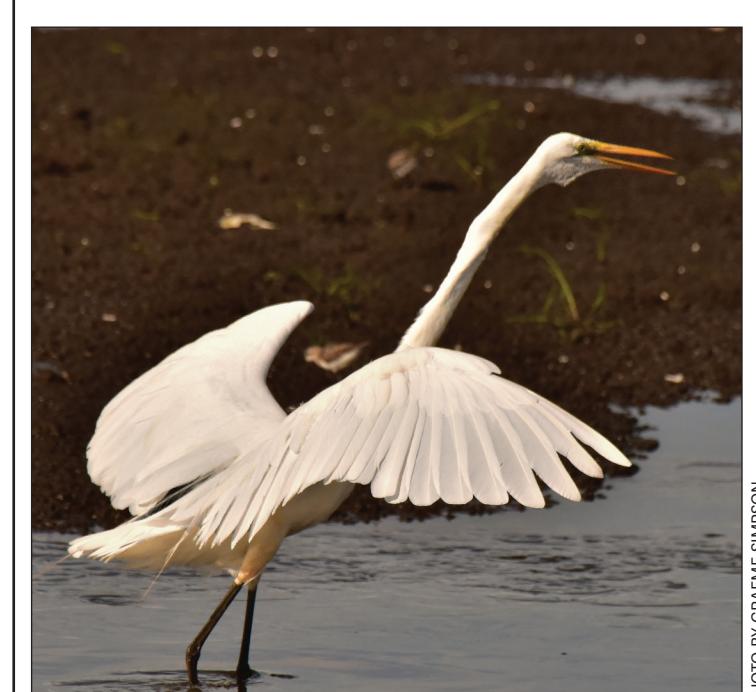


PHOTO BY GRAEME SIMPSON

An egret struts its stuff in a slow stream in the mudflats of Greenbelt Lake. See story on page 12.

# Letters to the Editor

## A Greenbelt Effort

For 20 or more years, the Greenbelt Lions have made holiday shopping at Beltway Plaza a little easier and classier by wrapping gifts purchased by folks for their family and friends. The funds raised go towards the Lions work with those who need to have their vision and hearing checked, as well as helping those whose lives have been completely brought upside down by severe storms or other disasters.

Over the last two decades, Lion Dennis Boles has organized and managed the two-weekend effort. He is the definition of selflessness. He organizes and basically manages about a dozen diligently working Lions. The Lions also benefit from the work of ESOL teacher Lorie Horties who recruits a few students from Eleanor Roosevelt High. Of course, none of these activities could take place without the space being reserved by Beltway Plaza, and the tables which hold the various wrapping papers provided by the recreation department.

For more information about the Greenbelt Lions, contact Lions President Harvey Hauptman at 301-908-5582.

**Konrad Herling**  
Member, Greenbelt Lions

## Tradition of Inclusion

Greenbelt is a town that honors tradition. Greenbelters take pride in the cooperative spirit that formed this community. This town, however, does not blindly uphold tradition - segregation is part of Greenbelt's legacy as well. So, how does the Greenbelt community decide which traditions bear support and which traditions need reform?

During World War II, Greenbelt expanded to accommodate defense workers who flocked to D.C. in an effort to support the war effort. The tradition of welcoming and expanding the community is part of what makes Greenbelt great. In 1939, Greenbelt broke with its segregationist past and served everyone who

chose to sit at the lunch counter. It took 30 years, but in the late 1960s Greenbelt was an integrated community. Greenbelt has grown in response to the needs of the community and has become increasingly inclusive.

So, why isn't Greenbelt a Sanctuary City? A Sanctuary City is a city whose laws protect undocumented immigrants from deportation or prosecution. Some say that by becoming a Sanctuary City, Greenbelt would risk being targeted by the Trump regime and could lose federal funding. That is a good point. If there was nothing to lose, then it wouldn't mean much to be a Sanctuary City. If there was nothing to lose, Greenbelt could jump on the bandwagon heedlessly. It is because there is something to lose that it is important that Greenbelt take this step.

Greenbelt lives in a Sanctuary county. Some might think that Greenbelt has no need to become a Sanctuary City because the County has taken the risk for us. That just is not true. Like when Greenbelters stood up and shouted down those who wanted to keep the lunch counter segregated, it is time for Greenbelt to stand up and show its true colors by becoming a Sanctuary City. The people of Greenbelt need not cower under the protective umbrella thrown up by the county.

Some people say that becoming a Sanctuary City means that Greenbelt would be at risk from human traffickers. Human trafficking is awful and Greenbelt is not the kind of city that would support it. Becoming a Sanctuary City means that a judicial warrant (the kind of warrant issued to human traffickers) is required to hold someone, not just a handwritten sheet of paper from ICE with the name "warrant" on the top of it that holds none of the power of the judiciary. Greenbelt would remain a safe place, it would just be a safe place for everyone.

It matters because Greenbelt

See LETTERS, page 9

## On Screen

### 1917 (Auditorium)

At the height of the First World War, two young British soldiers, Schofield (Captain Fantastic's George MacKay) and Blake (Game of Thrones's Dean-Charles Chapman) are given a seemingly impossible mission. In a race against time, they must cross enemy territory and deliver a message that will stop a deadly attack on hundreds of soldiers – Blake's own brother among them. "One needn't be British to feel the epic loss and grief of 1917, thanks to some very committed performances, the intimacy achieved by the movie's style and camera and [director Sam] Mendes's obvious devotion to what he's doing," says John Anderson of the Wall Street Journal.

Rated R. Running time: 119 minutes.

### Just Mercy (Pop-up)

After graduating from Harvard, Bryan Stevenson (Michael B. Jordan) had his pick of lucrative jobs. Instead, he heads to Alabama to defend those wrongly condemned or who were not afforded proper representation, with the support of local advocate Eva Ansley (Brie Larson). One of his first, and most incendiary, cases is that of Walter McMillian (Jamie Foxx), who in 1987 was sentenced to die for the notorious murder of an 18-year-old girl, despite a preponderance of evidence proving his innocence. In the years that follow, Bryan becomes embroiled in a labyrinth of legal and political maneuverings and overt and unabashed racism as he fights for Walter. The film, says Anna Smith of Time Out, is "an ultimately heart-warming watch that argues passionately for justice, community and kindness."

Rated PG-13. Running time: 137 minutes.

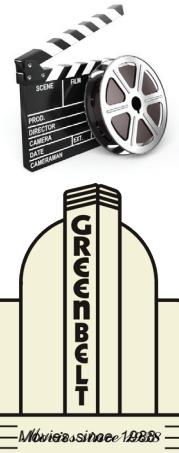
- Sandy Rodgers

## Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web greenbeltnewsreview.com para ver artículos en español.



See our website,  
[greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com),  
for articles in Spanish.



Old Greenbelt Theatre

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301-329-2034

[www.greenbeltntheatre.org](http://www.greenbeltntheatre.org)

Members Always \$6.50!

Members' Kids Free!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6,  
Senior/Student/Military \$8

All shows before 5 PM:

Adults \$7, Kids \$5

OC = Open Captions

CC = Closed Captions

DVS = Descriptive Video Service

### SHOWTIMES:

January 17th - 23rd

### The Auditorium

1917 (R)(CC)(DVS)

(2019)(119 mins)

Fri. 2:30, 5:30, 8:30 PM

Sat. 2:30, 5:30 (w/guest  
speaker), 8:30 PM

Sun. 2:30(OC), 5:30 PM

Mon. 5:30 PM

Tues. 5:30 PM

Wed. 2:30, 5:30, 8:30 PM

Thurs. 5:30 PM

### Stage on Screen

THE CURIOUS WORLD OF  
HIERONYMUS BOSCH

(NR)(2017)(99 mins)

Sun. 8:00 PM

Mon. 1:00 PM

### Family Series

THE SECRET WORLD OF  
ARRIETTY (G)

(2012)(94 mins)

Mon. 11:00 AM (dubbed),

8:00 PM (w/subtitles)

### The Pop-Up

JUST MERCY (PG-13)(CC)

(DVS)(2019)(137 mins)

Fri. 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 PM

Sat. 2:00(OC), 5:00,

8:00 PM

Sun. 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 PM

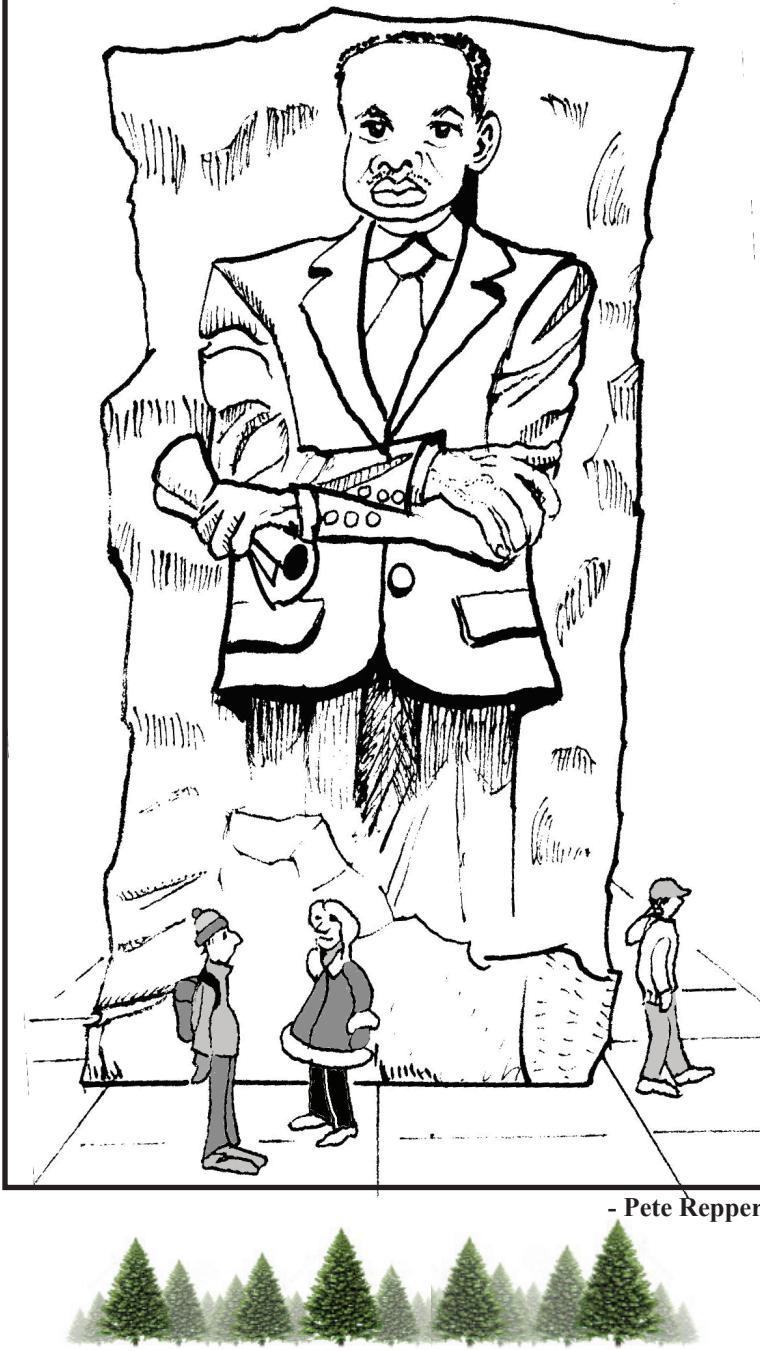
Mon. 5:00, 8:00 PM

Tues. 5:00, 8:00 PM

Wed. 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 PM

Thurs. 5:00, 8:00 PM

## Still Dreaming



- Pete Reppert

# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and Classified Ads - 8 p.m. Tuesday. Display Ads 4 p.m. Monday, 8 p.m. Tuesday if camera ready. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$50/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 10 p.m.



# Obituaries

**Richard Celdran, Jr.**

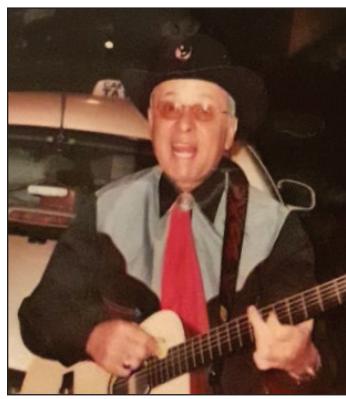


PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

**Richard Celdran, Jr.**

Richard Ignacio Celdran, Jr. died at age 77 on Saturday, January 11, 2020, from lung cancer. Ricky The D.C. Singing Cab Driver, Karaoke Cabbie, King of Velcro, was born to Camille and Richard Celdran on May 11, 1942. Later, Ricky gained a wonderful stepmom, Velma Barrica Celdran.

In the 1980s, Ricky was very active in the Greenbelt community. He was a steadfast member of the Baha'i faith who always saw people as equals. Ricky was a visionary, hard worker, fine dresser, creative, clever and had great attention to detail.

Ricky was also full of love and light. He most enjoyed bringing joy to others by playing his guitar and singing. As his grand-

daughter said, "My grandpa is a celebrity!" And that is the truth. He accomplished his goal here on earth and is now peacefully in the next kingdom; he said it couldn't come soon enough, and he was ready to go.

Toward the end, Ricky's oldest daughter, Danielle and her husband Dan opened their home to take care of her dad with help from his daughter Julie-Anne and three grandkids. Ricky would tell everyone he was "being treated like a king." What a blessing for him in his last weeks. He was lucky to have many friends and family visit and share stories and photos with him. It was clear how much love everyone had for him. He especially appreciated visiting with half-sister Brenda, stepmom Velma, niece Laura, nephew Robbie and the constant calls from nephew Tony and longtime friends and colleagues.

He leaves behind his daughters Danielle (Dan), Julie-Anne (Nate), grandchildren Danzson, Kaden and Bella, as well as his sisters Frances, Mitzi, Brenda and family from the East Coast, as well as in the Philippines. Ricky's burial took place on January 13 at Pleasant Valley Memorial Park in Annandale, Va. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

- Julie-Anne Celdran and Brenda Celdran

## Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.





**Catholic  
Community  
of Greenbelt  
MASS**

Sundays 10 A.M.  
Municipal Building  
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## Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

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301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor



**Worship Service 10 a.m.**  
It may be your life, but it is God's Call.

**The Bible Says...**

**"For all have sinned  
and fall short of the glory of God."**  
Romans 3:23

God has given all a standard to which all are held accountable and yet all fail. Yet because of His great love, God made a way for ALL to be redeemed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



**Sunday Worship Services**  
10am @ Greenbelt Elementary School  
[MCFcc.org](http://MCFcc.org)

## ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

**135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770**

**301-474-4322**



**Mass Schedule:**

**Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.**

**Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.**

**Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.**

**Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m.**

**Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe**

## In Memoriam

### Remembrance of Jim Link

by Todd Kliman

I think of Jim's vitality, his great bursting-forthness and it's hard to fathom that he's gone.

I tried to write this the other day and couldn't, and then I tried again yesterday and didn't - couldn't - finish.

This morning, though, I was awakened not by an alarm but by words, sentences - the Jim life force surging through me and I knew that I needed to sit down and write.

I first met Jim Link when I was 15 and had won a journalism contest for students in D.C., Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. Jim was one of the editors of the Sentinel newspaper, which had co-sponsored the contest, and he was the one who handed me my award. "Are you by chance any relation to Andy Kliman?" he asked, and went on to tell me that he had been the advisor to the underground/Marxist newspaper my brother was involved with in high school.

Wind the clock forward about 10 years. I've graduated from college and grad school and have just started teaching at Prince George's Community College, where my mother also works. I discover that Jim is on the faculty, in the same English department I have joined as an adjunct (he's full time), so I slip a note into his mailbox reminding him of my family connection and inviting him to lunch in the cafeteria.

After that, Jim and I had



PHOTO BY JULIE MAGNESS

**Jim Link rescues locked-out neighbors with spare key.**

lunch together nearly every week. These lunches were an oasis of sanity for me and for him, too; a chance to gather and connect and remind one another that the many awful, ignorant, rejectionist things the students did should not get us down. "It's them," he'd always say,

building me back up after a hard morning. "It's not you, it's them." I still remember one particularly difficult day. I forgot what I was complaining about - some class of mine that was being willfully incurious and proudly anti-intellectual. Jim shook his head in deep sympathy and (this was so very Jim, always ready with the perfect bon mot) paraphrased Oscar Wilde: "They're like artists ... they have the personality of artists - sullen, rude, haughty, aloof - only with none of the talent!" We roared with laughter. It was just the lift I needed. I returned to the classroom two days later - with resentment, but without rancor.

I introduced Jim to my mother, and he used to go to her office a couple times a week - his own respite. He loved her zest

See [LINK](#), page 11



Our condolences to Anne Gardner on the death of her father on January 12.

Condolences also to Danielle Celdran and family on the death of her father, Ricky Celdran.

Toby Liska, oldest son of Freedom Realty's Sarah and Joe Liska and grandson of Rick and Cathie Meetre, made the Dean's List at Assumption College in Worcester, Mass. Toby spent his first few years of school at St. Hugh's. Cited for excellent academic performance, he is also on the football team and is a resident assistant in his dorm. This is his sophomore year and he is doing his family and himself proud. Toby wants to be a neurosurgeon and last summer spent several weeks as an intern in the emergency room, where he showed himself unfazed by an often intense experience. Go Toby.

Congratulations to former Greenbelter Barbara Turnbull for being chosen to serve a month-long internship in the office of Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont. Barbara is a senior at Oberlin College.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).



## Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi

Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)

 Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



January 19 10 a.m.

### CELEBRATING THE MLK PLAYBOOK

Minister Rev. Rachel Christensen; with Worship Associate Samantha Evans; the Chalice Dancers; and the Choir

Martin Luther King, Jr., developed a strategy and playbook for pursuing change and justice. Come explore with us his work, and how it has been used for other justice movements advancing civil rights in our country.

## Christian Science Church

**8300 Adelphi Road,  
Hyattsville, MD**

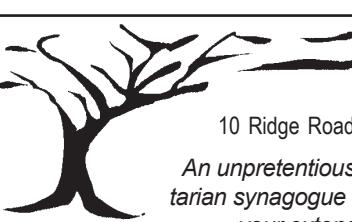
*My son, forget not my law, but let thine heart keep thy commandments. Prov.*



**Sunday School 10:30 a.m.**

**Church Service 10:30 a.m.**

**Wednesday meeting 7:30 p.m.**



## Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 301-474-4223

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Shabbat services: Friday evening at 8:00 PM, Saturday morning services at 9:30 AM.

Educational programs for children K-12 and for adults.

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Moderate, flexible dues. High holiday seating for visitors.

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Interfaith families are welcome.

*Historic synagogue dually affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation*

## Peace Vigil Brings Crowd, Music to Roosevelt Center

by Erik Hanson



PHOTO BY ERIK HANSON

Greenbelters gather for a peace vigil in Roosevelt Center on January 10.

In response to recent military conflicts between the U.S. and Iran, about 15 people met for a peace vigil Friday evening in Roosevelt Center.

The participants gathered at the foot of the Mother and Child statue around a rainbow flag with the word Peace in white block letters. An organizer of the event, Joe Robbins, asked the attendees to give their names and say why they were there.

One participant, Emmett Jordan, stated, "I came out today because I am passionate to find a way, somehow, to end all the tension and conflict."

Polly O'Rourke said, "I wanted to show up because whether or not these events do actually have an impact, it's important to show up because otherwise there's no chance. I don't support the war in Iraq for a variety of reasons. Also I have an 11-year-old and I'm very afraid of what it can mean for his future."

After introductions, the group sang a series of peace anthems, including John Lennon's "Give Peace a Chance."

One participant read the Eleanor Roosevelt quote, "It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't

### Workshop Examines Dating Abuse

A public worksession entitled No Excuse for Dating Abuse: Paint and Parley will take place on Friday, January 17 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. in the South Bowie Community Center at 1717 Pittsfield Lane.

Come for an evening of painting and learn about the signs of teen dating abuse and the eye-opening statistics behind human trafficking.

For more information, call 301-249-7200 or TTY 301-699-2544. This workshop is free; dinner and giveaways will be provided.

### Holy Cross Thrift Store

Every Thursday  
10am – 4pm

Good, clean clothes for women,  
men and children!  
Shoes, jewelry, books, etc.

6905 Greenbelt Road  
Greenbelt, Md. 301-345-5111

### City Notes

Animal Control investigated a cruelty complaint, helped deal with two wild foxes near the Youth Center, rescued a sick gecko and received a cat that had been in foster care. The cat and the gecko are now the only residents of the shelter.

Street Maintenance/Special Details and Horticulture/Parks worked on city vehicles and equipment to prepare for snow.

Horticulture/Parks removed a tree in a hazardous position over a powerline on Cherrywood Lane and installed a headstone at the Greenbelt Cemetery.

Refuse/Recycling collected 27.77 tons of refuse and 10.47 tons of recyclable material.

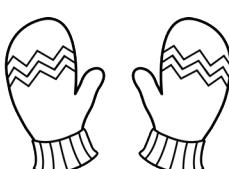
Building Maintenance changed out the HVAC filters in all city buildings.

The 2020 Camp Guide is now available online and in the recreation facilities.

The Community Center delivered a U.S. Flag to the American Legion for proper disposal.

Arts staff sponsored a Parent's Night Out program at the Community Center, with art activities, games and a meal for children.

Final preparations are underway for two new art exhibits which will open in the Community Center Gallery and in the Municipal Building.



## City Information & Events



### MEETINGS FOR JANUARY 20-24

Tuesday, January 21 at 7:00pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES** at Public Works Facility, 555 Crescent Road. On the Agenda: Location for Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Tree

Wednesday, January 22 at 7:30pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD** at Community Center, 15 Crescent Road. On the Agenda: Beltway Plaza Proposed Redevelopment-Preliminary Plan of Subdivision

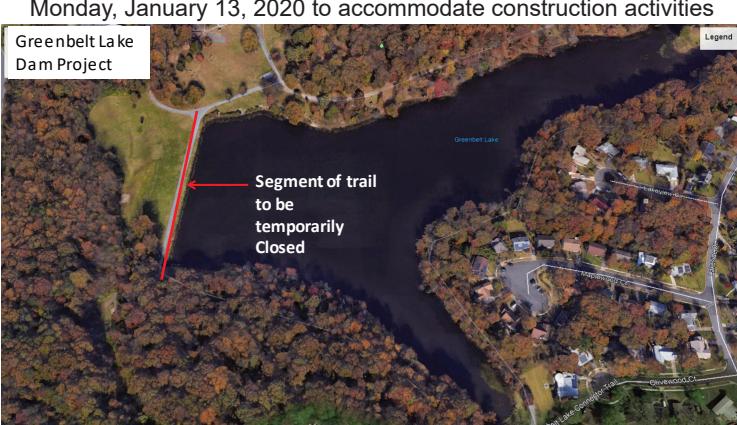
Wednesday, January 22 at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION re: WMATA Metro Station** at Community Center, 15 Crescent Road. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996 and streaming at [www.greenbeltdmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov).

Thursday, January 23 at 7:00pm, **FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD** at Public Works Facility, 555 Crescent Road. On the Agenda: Report to Council about AMT final report, PG County zoning of North Woods & Sunshine Tract to be consistent, Creek Naming, Prioritize plans moving forward, and Owen's book

**This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held, call 301-474-8000.**

### PUBLIC NOTICE: Greenbelt Lake Trail Closure

A segment of the trail around Greenbelt Lake in the vicinity of the dam project will be closed for approximately 30 days beginning on Monday, January 13, 2020 to accommodate construction activities



**For City Events, Meetings, Services, and more, visit [www.greenbeltdmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov). Follow the City of Greenbelt on Facebook and Twitter @cityofgreenbelt**

## Personalities and Activities For Black History Month

by Lesley Kash

Greenbelt will celebrate Black History Month with fun, educational and inspiring events every weekend in February. The kickoff event will be a Mud Cloth Workshop on Sunday, February 2 from 1 to 2 p.m., during the Community Center's Artful Afternoon.

The main celebration, on Sunday, February 9 at the Community Center, will feature prominent speakers as well as performances.

Chris Haley of the Maryland State Archives is the director of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland Project. Haley is the nephew of Alex Haley, author of Roots. He is a genealogist, actor, singer, writer, historian, producer, director, motivational speaker and talk show host.

Sistah Joy, the Poet Laureate of Prince George's County, will also speak. J. Joy "Sistah Joy" Matthews Alford is an author and arts advocate, as well as the producer and host of the award-

winning poetry-based cable television show, Sojourn with Words. Performers at the celebration will include the Eleanor Roosevelt Gospel Choir and the SITY (Sensational, Inspirational, Talented Youth) Stars Jump Rope Team.

The following Sunday, February 16, Beltway Plaza will host Wellness, Movement and Inspiration, a program featuring the Earth Squad and a drum circle.

On Saturday, February 22 at the Community Center a seminar and panel discussion will explore Desegregating Greenbelt. Then, on Sunday, February 23, the Old Greenbelt Theatre will offer a free showing of the film Harriet, about the life of Harriet Tubman.

More information, including all times and features, will soon be available on the City of Greenbelt website at [greenbeltdmd.gov](http://greenbeltdmd.gov), at the Recreation Department at 301-397-2200 and in upcoming issues of the News Review.

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*The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.*

### MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF SERVICE

MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2020

Public Works Building 555 Crescent Road

10 AM – 1 PM

Be a part of the community effort to protect trees from beaver herbivory and invasive vines at Buddy Attick Park. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to place wire cages around the trunks of native trees to protect them from beaver herbivory and remove invasive vines.

#### Reminders:

- Bring a reusable water bottle
- Wear weather-appropriate clothing and closed-toe shoes
- Students: bring community-service forms

Questions? Contact Environmental Coordinator Jason Martin at [jmartin@greenbeltdmd.gov](mailto:jmartin@greenbeltdmd.gov)

### MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed Monday, January 20, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The Greenbelt Connection will not be operating.

### REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Week of January 20

Monday Route – Collected Tuesday

Tuesday Route – Collected Wednesday

Wednesday Route – Collected Thursday

Thursday Route – Collected Friday

There will be no appliance, odd metals, hard plastics, or yard waste collections on Friday, January 24

### VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on: Arts Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee and Youth Advisory Committee.

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301-278-8637

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## Greenbelters Travel



PHOTO BY RAHUL MEHTA

During a late December visit to India, Rahul Mehta went to the southern tip of the country, and the subcontinent, the town of Kanyakumari in the state of Tamilnadu, and brought the News Review with him. From this point, one can see the Indian Ocean and have a clear path all the way to Antarctica – no other land is in the way. In the photo are also visible the Vivekananda Rock and the statue of Thiruvalluvar, a Tamil poet.



PHOTO COURTESY DONNA PETERSON

Five friends went to Fort Jefferson, four of them Greenbelters. Everybody forgot the News Review but they came up with an idea. From left are Marti Galvin, Donna Peterson, Mary Ann Tretler, Ellen Hanyok and Carolyn Sandros.

## REFUGEES continued from page 1

Executive Order was “arbitrary and capricious” and that it posed an undue burden on resettlement agencies to obtain and document consent from the many hundreds of localities around the country where 30,000 refugees were placed last year.

The judge asked the plaintiffs to draft a sample injunction by the end of the week, indicating a judgment would soon be issued. The resettlement agencies are facing a January 21 deadline to document local consent for refugees arriving later this year.

News outlets including the Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) covered the hearing. According to the WSJ, opposition from some states to refugee resettlement grew when Syrian refugees were placed.

Governors from 31 states asked the Obama administration for permission not to accept Syrian refugees to their states, which the administration denied. Indiana, under then Governor Mike Pence, moved to unilaterally ban Syrian refugees, but the effort was blocked by federal courts” (WSJ, January 8, 2020).

A spokeswoman at the vigil from New American Economy, Mo Kantner, cited statistics from their June 2017 report, noting that “Three and a quarter million refugees arrived between 1975 and today. Refugees pay tens of billions of dollars in taxes each year, becoming entrepreneurs, founding companies, buying homes and earning their U.S. citizenship “at notably high rates.”

### Late Breaking

## Federal Judge Temporarily Stops Executive Order

On Wednesday, January 15, U.S. District Judge Peter J. Messitte of Maryland sided with the plaintiffs in the case presented last week, and temporarily stopped the September, 2019, executive order that required state and local officials to agree to refugees settling in their jurisdictions. The judge said in a 31-page opinion that “The power to admit and exclude non-citizens is exclusively federal in nature,” and “...that by giving states and local governments veto power over the resettlement of refugees within their borders, the order is unlawful.”

The News Review reviewed the copy of the opinion obtained by the Washington Post. The opinion is posted on <https://www.mdd.uscourts.gov/recent-opinions>.

## Sculpture Exhibit Celebrates Growth Toward Liberation

by Nicole DeWald

A new exhibition is opening this week at the Community Center Art Gallery. Thresholds features poignant, figurative ceramic sculptures and relief panels by Chris Corson, an artist in residence at the Community Center since July. Join Corson in the gallery for a reception on Friday evening, January 17, from 6 to 7 p.m. Immediately following the reception, artists in attendance are invited to participate in a monthly Art Share from 7 to 8 p.m. in Room 113; bring a piece of personal artwork for a friendly group discussion.

The figures in the show – male nudes – express broad, existential themes with great dignity and empathy. They evoke our vulnerability and our strength, our efforts at self-protection and our “growth toward liberation.” Corson also intends the pieces to speak – more obliquely – to the physical and psychic toll of economic exploitation, a theme informed by his prior career as a labor union attorney.

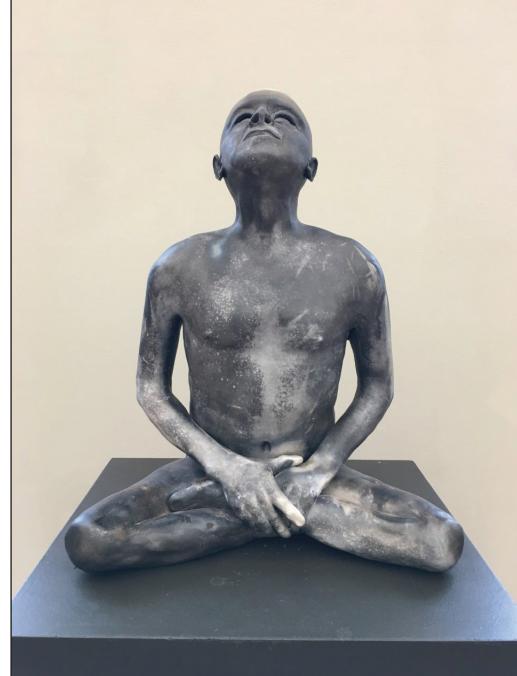
“For me,” Corson writes, “sculpting the human form is exploring the human condition. I believe our bodies have a profound message, which is that they bear an enduring imprint of our life experiences and emotional history. The body is testimony – what we have gone through, who we are and even what we may become.”

Corson builds his figures without an armature, working slabs of clay from both the inside and outside to suggest the body’s form and textures. The sculptures are fired in an electric kiln to achieve a stable bisque state. They are then finished in an earthen pit where they are covered with sawdust, straw, sticks, newspaper and split logs that are set ablaze. The fire burns out over the course of about three days, and the figures emerge from the ashes with mottled, smoky surfaces in shades of brown, grey, black and pale pink (the color of the bisque). The cosmic richness of the surfaces speaks to the complex specificity of experience as inscribed in an individual body, and also to the radical openness of heart which enables the work’s creation.

In 2017, Corson re-fired one sculpture of a torso six times using either the pit or a raku kiln,



- Photos by Nicole DeWald



Artist in Residence Chris Corson arranges his ceramic sculptures and relief panels in the Community Center gallery.

pushing the piece to the limit of its structural integrity (as work, and life itself, may do to each of us). Between these firings, Corson erased the sculpture’s finish in an electric kiln. Each incarnation of the piece was documented photographically by his collaborator Stuart Diekmeyer. The result is a series of classically elegant, large-format prints entitled Moods, which are included in the exhibition.

“In making my pieces,” Corson explains, “I work deeply from my own inner senses of body and feeling, below what my intellectual mind thinks it knows. I want my deep emotions to flow out through my hands and into my work.” The emotional impact of the sculptures provides an immediacy of engagement with the

viewer. The bare skin of Corson’s figures marks a threshold between the personal and the social world, and between experience and ideation. In his series of square relief panels entitled Becoming, the plane of the clay slabs demarcates the place of transition. Hands and faces reach into the viewer’s space in a powerful and incomplete process of emergence.

Chris Corson: Thresholds will remain on view through March 20. The Art Gallery is open daily when not reserved. Normal hours are Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, visit [greenbeltdmd.gov/arts](http://greenbeltdmd.gov/arts) or call 301-397-2208. Greenbelt Arts programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

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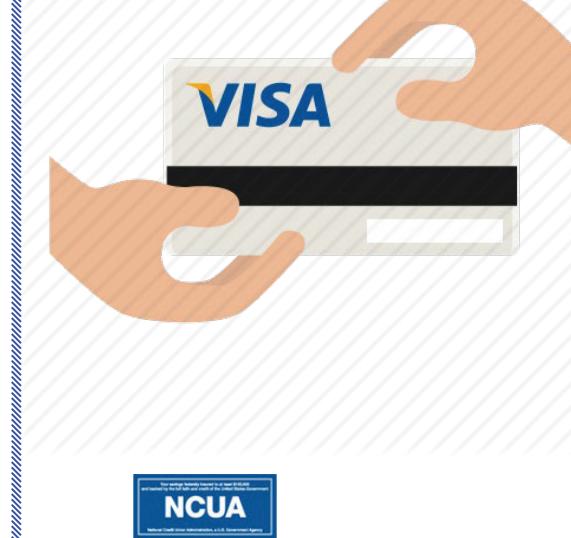
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## COUNCIL continued from page 1

several BP tenants invited by Kapistan. They all related a significant decrease in foot traffic and sales. Yet, in general, they all anticipated that a redevelopment, with its huge influx of residents, would help turn that around. These tenants have had a presence at BP for years, some going back 40 years, and they have a deep appreciation for the regard and advocacy they have received from Quantum and look for that to continue.

The predicament of brick and mortar retail was discussed, with online competition posing a serious threat to its viability. Kapistan was committed to keeping his tenants in business, with the tenants themselves choosing to move ahead despite the situation. BP has a very diverse mix of small and chain businesses, something that the BP team and the council are hoping to preserve.

Townhouses had been a part of the MOU, and their omission was viewed as an unexpected change. The plan omits any details as to the nature of the housing such as whether it will be rental or owned and whether some will be set aside for seniors or cooperatives. Council remarked on the high density of the area which appeared to preclude the green space pledged by the representatives.

Councilmember Edward Putens was reluctant about moving forward, as the needs of the estimated 6,000 new residents will need to be addressed. He made a par-

allel with neighboring Greenbelt Station, which is now already faced with inadequate parking and recreation.

Community Planner Molly Porter presented a report made by city staff of their concerns about this latest plan. While the redevelopment is seen as "a great opportunity for Greenbelt West and the city as a whole," there were reservations about traffic density, recreation facilities and school capacity. Staff had differences of opinion on the traffic study conducted by Lenhart, which they felt was too optimistic and incomplete regarding traffic patterns, the conditions on Breezewood Drive and future circulation issues. Adequate recreation areas were also a concern.

While BP is not responsible for school issues, the influx of new residents will burden already overcrowded schools in the city. Staff and attorney Mason Nelson, representing Franklin Park, expressed a desire for more time to make decisions on each plan. (Nelson also presented a counter report on traffic by Dr. Lei Zhang at UMD, which disagreed with the report from Lenhart).

The BP team responded by asserting that this plan is still very much in a preliminary stage. Kapistan said a firm decision is far from being made. Tedesco stated that collaboration is still their focus and that they pledge to adhere to the former conditions agreed upon. Villegas said he sought an "evolution of listening to people," to create an "excellent

project for all."

Councilmembers Judith Davis and Silke Pope made it clear that they are not enemies to this plan but are focused on creating the best plan for the community as a whole.

The plan will next go before the Advisory Planning Board and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Council will vote on their recommendation to Prince George's County Planning Board on January 27.

### Botanic Garden Gives Tour of Tropics

On Thursday, January 16 from 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. join in a talk and walk on the wild side to explore the tropics in the Conservatory. Discover some of the many plants found on this diverse planet, from the Amazon Rainforest to the Yucatan Peninsula, along the canopy walks. Come for a 45-minute tour and learn about a new plant or two. The tour will meet in the Conservatory Garden Court. It is free, but pre-registration is required.

## Debbie Coulter Retires



PHOTO BY BEVERLY PALAU

At her retirement party, Debbie Coulter, left, celebrates 25 years with Greenbelt Recreation. Greg Varda, recreation supervisor, presents her with a plaque, while Hank Irving, former recreation director, looks on.

### Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size.

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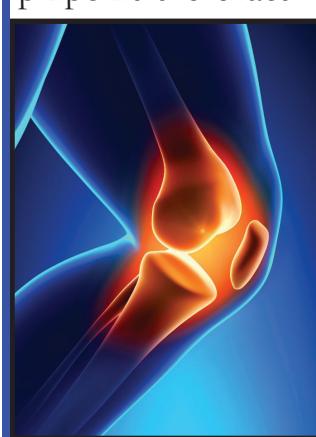
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## Letters continued from p.2

has never been ashamed to be who we are. Greenbelt did not shy away from the past and just continue being segregationist because that was the safe route. Greenbelt stood up and did the right thing then and it is time for Greenbelt to truly stand behind its desire to be inclusive now. It is time for Greenbelt to become a Sanctuary City.

Brett Fishburne

### Flexibility for Whom?

Greenbelters who live near open space, live in GHI or want to preserve the garden city atmosphere of Greenbelt are right to be very concerned about the zoning changes planned by Prince George's County. The master planner with the Countywide Planning Division was quoted in the Dec. 28, 2019, News Review as stating that the new zoning will emphasize flexibility.

Those who have participated on labor's side in negotiating a union contract probably realize that management usually wants the contract to be flexible. Their goal aims to allow management to treat employees however management wants.

County officials have made clear over the last year that their vision is to increase population density near county Metro stations. GHI and the western part of Greenbelt seem to be in the Greenbelt Metro transit-oriented center category on the proposed new zoning map on the website: zoningpgc.pgplanning.com. On the website, the answer to frequently asked question 19, How do the CMA and the zoning ordinance rewrite connect to plan Prince George's 2035? says that the Plan Prince George's 2035 adopted in 2014 has the goal to "direct new development to existing transit-oriented centers." In my view, this zoning threatens the existence of GHI as a planned community with affordable housing. I can imagine developers salivating to build expensive high-density housing on the open space in GHI, in particular. It seems to me that the reason to include GHI, for example, in the transit-centered zoning is that someone believes that GHI can eventually be opened up to high density development. Is

high density what our two former mayors have in mind when they promote economic development? High density development will only enrich developers, not benefit residents.

Zoning flexibility techniques include vague definitions and regulations that allow several interpretations by county staff to fit their planning goals. Another strategy is to put all zoning power in a board whose decisions cannot be challenged. The flexibility can easily benefit some developers with close ties to the county establishment who may find flexibility loopholes to let them do what they want, even though flexibility will be sold by the county as an aid to residents.

This situation is another reason that Greenbelt needs the zoning power over the city that is currently held by the county. Advisory input is not sufficient. Under its proposed plan, the county can impose extreme housing changes on Greenbelt.

*Henry Haslach*

(Editor's Note: For specific details of the proposed Prince George's County zoning plan, review the map tool: zoningpgc.pgplanning.com/zoning-swipe-tool/ which allows viewing both existing and proposed zoning changes including what areas are and are not part of a transit-oriented center. The Zoning Or-

dinance Rewrite Portal can be accessed at: pgccouncil.us/589/Zoning-Ordinance-Rewrite-Portal.)

### Loved Quadrille, You May Too

Imagine the great story-telling of Shakespeare in a way easier to understand, with fewer characters, less confusing, yet still passionate, touching and meaningful. Quadrille is well written and organized, yet still full of surprises. The characters and actors are developed and compelling. They entertain with a tale of food, life and love with more than a few surprises and plenty of humor. There's baking and sword play! Go see for yourself, this last weekend, at the wonderful Greenbelt Arts Center.

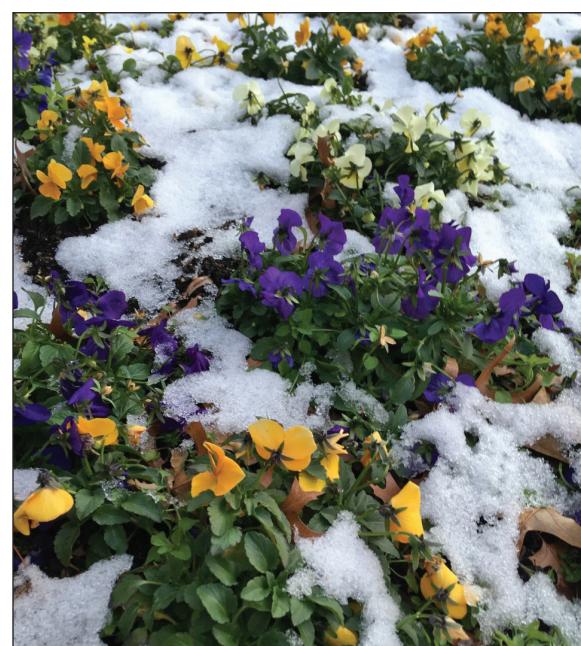
You may just love it even more than my guests and me!

Rick Coleman

### Not Worth Finding

I found over \$25 in scratch off Maryland Lottery tickets (bingo, crossword, etc.) in the parking lot at Beltway Plaza on Friday, January 10. If you are the person who lost them, I wanted you to know that you did not lose anything of value. You only lost pieces of paper because none of them were winners. Not even \$1.

M. A. Glynn



Pansies appear undaunted under the snow at Green Ridge House.

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, www.greenbeltdmd.gov/police  
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

### Robbery

January 6, 11:03 a.m., 9100 block Edmonston Terrace. A man approached a woman who was getting something out of her vehicle, produced a handgun and announced a robbery. After he obtained money he got into the passenger seat of a nearby vehicle and fled.

### Assault

January 9, 6 a.m. A 19-year-old resident was arrested at the Youth Center and charged with carrying a handgun in the assault reported on December 28. He was transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

### Theft

January 2, 1:38 p.m., 9100 block Edmonston Court. A package was taken from the front stoop of a residence.

### Burglary

January 3, 10:25 a.m., 9300 block Edmonston Road. Two Greenbelt youths, one 15 and the other 16, were arrested and charged with fourth degree burglary and trespassing after officers responded to a report that two teenagers broke into a vacant apartment. They were released to guardians pending action by the Juvenile Justice System.

### Vehicle Crime

A 45-year-old Greenbelt man was arrested and charged with malicious destruction on Janu-

ary 5 after surveillance footage showed him throwing an object at a vehicle several times, which damaged the body and paint. This man, known to the officer, was located and arrested later in the day. He was released on citation pending trial.

A 2019 Hyundai Santa Fe SUV taken from the 9200 block Springhill Lane on January 2 was recovered the next morning by Prince George's County Police in the 2900 block Hamilton Street in Hyattsville. Two youths were arrested.

A 4-door 2015 Honda Accord reported stolen December 16 from the 400 block Ridge Road was found abandoned January 2 in the same parking lot by its owner.

Rear Maryland tag 7DM3387 was taken from the 9100 block Edmonston Road on January 2.

A laptop computer, backpack and passport were taken from the 7500 block Greenbelt Road on January 3 after the rear passenger side window was broken out.

A front passenger window was broken out of a vehicle in the 5900 block Springhill Drive and the vehicle rifled through on January 4 but nothing appeared to have been taken.

A wallet was taken from a possibly unlocked vehicle in the 6000 block Springhill Drive on January 5.

*The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.*

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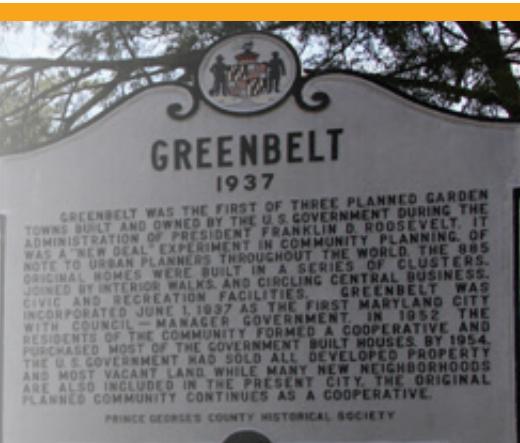
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## LINK continued from page 4

and sense of humor, and felt that he had in her an ally, a conspirator and a fellow traveler.

Jim then met my father and it was not long before he was a regular at the house, for dinners, family gatherings or my father's art exhibits.

The time my now-wife Ellen first met my parents, Jim was there. It was Passover, first night Seder. I had spent two weeks scrubbing my father's studio in the back of the house. Ellen still talks about it as a forbiddingly intimidating night – not just because she was meeting my parents, but because the talk around the table (apart from our retelling of the Exodus) was books – fiction and non-, famous and obscure, bawdy and refined – reaching all the way back into antiquity. A former professor of mine was a guest as was a family friend, a Swedish baroness. And they, like my father, were fantastically well-read, voluble and charismatic. You can well imagine Jim in this mix, deliriously in his element, grateful to have found a home away from home.

I should add that it was not just a night of book talk – it was a night of boisterous, ranging, unpretentious book talk. Not unlike our monthly book group get-togethers, when we were at full strength – and sometimes even when we weren't – so long as the acid tablet that was Jim had been dropped into the broth.

It was around the time that I met Ellen that Jim met the great love of his life: a Jungian who taught literature and wore vintage clothing. Let me tell you, Jim was smitten. I had never seen him so happy. At our weekly lunches, we would talk about love, love poems, Neruda, Sappho and Adrienne Rich.

Duality is the heart of poetry, Jim's eternal love, and perhaps this is why my mind is sending me an image, now, of the saddest I ever saw him: when I attended his father's funeral. I can still remember his eulogy. How his father taught him to love words. And play with words. I remember the catch in Jim's voice as he spoke. He was trying so hard not to break down. Seeing him up there – this big, strapping man, so obviously hurting, but speaking with such sensitivity and tenderness and grace and love – cracked me open.

After my father died, Jim became a steady companion of

my mother's. He would take her to the American Legion (he loved the cheap Manhattans – three bucks!). Mostly they went for breakfast, did the crossword puzzle together. She loved seeing him in this world, so very different from the world of our book group. Jim could talk to anybody, anywhere about almost anything. He made distinctions when it came to poetry and fiction, but never when it came to people.

When my mother and I talked about whom we would invite to join our book group, the first person we both thought of was Jim. I started the group in 2009, about six months after my father died. I wanted spirited talk about books back in the house again, and I wanted to give my mother some structure. ("You'll host it every month," I said, pitching her the idea. "And do all the cooking." "I will?" she said. It still makes me laugh.) Jim was a tone-setter. The tone setter. Who he was in talking about books, was what I wanted these nights to be. Heady, high-minded, far-ranging, but without an ounce of pretension.

Not even a hint of the classroom, or of intellectual grandstanding. A night like that first Seder, all of us gathered in tight and feeling free and exuberant. And it was. And still is.

I loved that every time we met, Jim would dazzle us with some rhetorical flight or obscure reference. He would never have used that word, dazzling, to describe himself, but he used it often to describe a writer who knocked him out. But he did. He dazzled us with his effortless erudition, his infectious irrepressibility and his soaring regard for what literature is and can do. He loved David Markson's last quartet of books, built from lines this writer's writer had amassed over his many decades of reading – fascinating bits about a vast range of personalities from art and history and literature. Jim was a walking, talking David Markson book.

In a cultural age where the

idea is being hammered into us that writers can and should speak only to their respective tribes, where so many people want to make literature small, here was Jim, who read without apologies and who was so fervently catholic in his tastes – Opera and the Undoing of Women, The Lesbian Body and The Natural History of Love, to name just a few titles. Literature was Jim's passport to the world, and he had a wanderlust and a curiosity greater than any person I have ever known.

In thinking about The Natural History of Love, I am thinking about Diane Ackerman, who Jim once took me to see read at the Smithsonian. He loved her writing, but he also was captivated by her long dark curls and her deeply sensual manner. "She's so dishy," he said that night. I used to love the way he would talk about women, particularly literary women, who captured his mind and heart. Of Joan Didion, Jim said, "pale and tubercular and wonderful."

After each night of the book group, Jim would turn to me and say, practically bubbling over with gratitude and joy, "This was so wonderfully civilized, Todd. The discussion, the food, the wine, all these great people. Thank you."

Jim was no foodie, not even close, and I loved him for that. I once took him and my mother to one of the most elegant restaurants in Washington. This was back when I was a food critic, and in need of constant dinner guests. Jim couldn't distinguish good from great in this realm, and he was not an appreciator of food and drink beyond the immediate satisfaction of eating and gulping. So I didn't take him with me all that often, maybe seven or eight times a year. But it was always a great time, if only for the talk.

On this night I reveled in seeing him in the dining room of one of the swankiest restaurants in the city. This pretentious, self-conscious, anti-sensual city

– this city of facts and data and statistics, that lacks all poetry – this city of people looking at themselves looking. And there, dropped down among them for one night, this beautiful, bountiful soul I was privileged to call my friend – this earnest manchild, disheveled where they were polished, voluble where they were circumspect – exuberantly peppering his conversation with quotations from Baudelaire and allusions to Verlaine and Voltaire while shoveling down plate after plate of delicately wrought food as if he were in an army mess hall.

It was glorious.

I have held onto that story for nearly 10 years, and it has only grown larger and more significant in my imagination as time has gone by. More than just an exquisite distillation of a man richer, more varied, and more lovable than most fictional characters, it is a teaching moment from a wise and gifted teacher. For here it was, a lesson – maybe the lesson – in how to live. Without apology. With largeness. With love.



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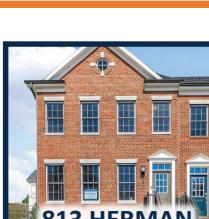
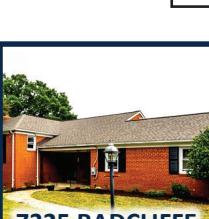
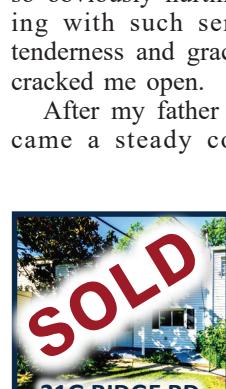
**Investment Opportunity** 3-Story townhome w/ finished basement, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Remodeled kit. & more. Priced to sell at \$119,900.

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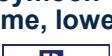
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*My Perspective*

# Newly Exposed Mudflats Invite Greater Wildlife Variety to Lake

by Graeme Simpson

Wildlife has adapted amazingly well to the change to a dry environmental habitat at Greenbelt Lake. The exposed mud flat has encouraged birds to take advantage of new feeding areas while the dam restoration is in progress. As a professional nature and wildlife photographer for 45 years, I find Buddy Attick Park a conservation haven of flora and fauna of the Greenbelt area.

The present exposed mudflat areas are rich in little creatures. They have encouraged new arrivals of birds to feed, such as the likes of the killdeers seen and heard with high pitched calls. At present, crows and swamp sparrows capture worms while ring-billed gulls feed on little fish. The Canada geese and mallards have stayed this winter to feast on the existing water plants.

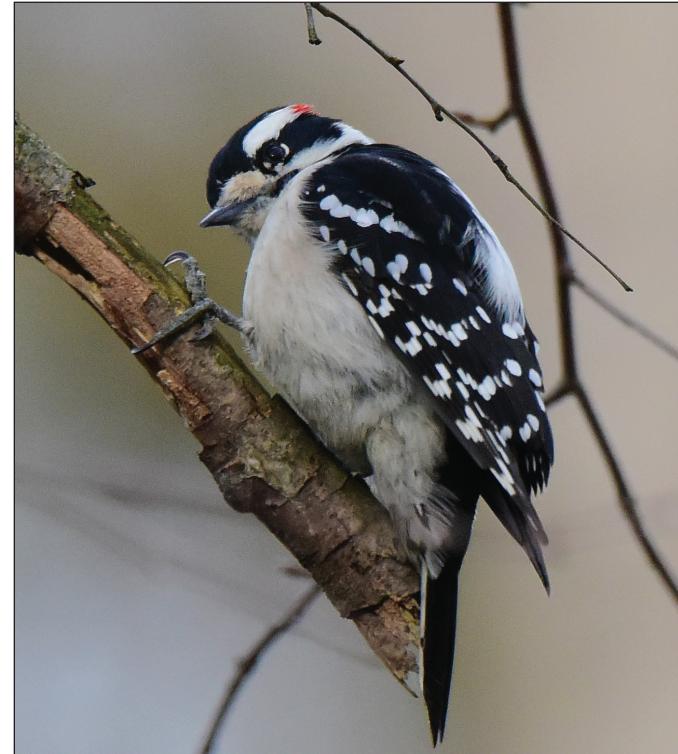
Greenbelt residents walking the trails see the great blue heron near low-flowing water areas from the stream toward the peninsula.

In the first week of the new year, I sighted at least 35 species of animals most days, including large flocks of the dark-eyed junco and white-throated sparrows. On early morning walks, I often have viewed and photographed the healthy red foxes, white-tailed deer, squirrels and the occasional Maryland rabbit.

The abundance of prey encouraged the red-shouldered hawks to nest with healthy fledglings in 2019. Three young hawks have successfully taken flight for new locations in Greenbelt. As the lake waters were lowering, visitors saw the great egrets. The belted kingfisher and woodpeckers have returned as well.

On my January 2 walk about the lake trails, I photographed 20 species of birds including my favorites, the northern cardinals, northern mockingbirds, woodpeckers and the great blue heron. In 2010 I started my journey in the United States, coming from New Zealand in search of new nature and wildlife photography adventures in many states. I moved to Maryland, on Lakecrest Drive in 2016, an ideal location to be in walking distance to Buddy Attick Park and to be close to the greater Greenbelt community with surrounding areas of the historic Patuxent River watershed.

I look forward to the completion of the dam and in April will continue to photodocument the developing natural landscapes of Greenbelt Lake.



Male downy woodpecker

- Photos by  
Graeme Simpson



Dark-eyed junco



Red-shouldered hawk



Squirrel



Great blue heron



Sunset over the Lake

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